

Mrs. Patricia Unger
1509 Lyon Avenue
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Mr. Charles Jones, Sheriff
Coahoma County Sheriff Department
P.O. Box 1182
63 Sunflower Avenue
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

May 1, 2013

Re: Marco McMillian's Murder Investigation

Dear Sheriff Jones:

It has been over two months since my son, Marco Watson McMillian, was found murdered on February 26, 2013. Within this time frame, my husband and I have only received two visits/correspondences from you. The first visit took place on February 26, 2013. During this visit, you informed us that Marco's SUV had been involved in an accident and that someone else was driving the SUV. You also stated that Marco was not in the vehicle and that you were trying to locate him. The second visit took place on February 27, 2013, during this visit you informed us that his body had been found.

Last month, my husband, Amos Unger, contacted you via phone inquiring about the investigation. You informed him that the investigation was still ongoing and that you could not release any information about the investigation because you were trying to conduct it in a professional manner. You stated that you did not want any leaks to take place due to the family making statements to the press/media. However, I do not feel like the investigation has been done with professionalism. Listed below are unanswered questions/reasons why I feel like this investigation has not been conducted in an ethical manner:

1. Identification of the body

My husband and I, along with other family members, were shown a digital photo (cell phone) of Marco's face by the coroner, Scotty Meredith. I feel that this was an inappropriate way to make an identification. In my opinion, the appropriate way to do this would have been to request that my husband and I go to the morgue to identify the body. The digital photo only showed Marco's face in a body bag which was zippered up to his neck. A photo does not always show clear, precise views, therefore, a visit to the morgue would have given me a more precise view of the condition of his body.

2. Removal of the SUV

The first time that I saw the damaged condition of the SUV was via a newspaper photo. The SUV had been moved to the sheriff's office and was later moved to A-1 Auto Sales without my consent. My family had to contact your office to inquire into the whereabouts of the vehicle. When we arrived to view the damage of the vehicle, the keys were still inside and some of his personal belongings were missing. When I asked about the umbrellas that were missing, one of the employees gave me a surprised look before he went into the office to retrieve the umbrellas. I feel like the handling of the SUV was done with inappropriateness. The family should have been given the right to come to the sheriff's office to remove all his personal belongings before having the vehicle moved to a location designated by the family. The insurance representative informed my husband that A-1 Sales was charging a daily fee to keep the vehicle in its possession. Leaving the keys in the vehicle gave anyone who entered the vehicle access to the keys and since my house keys were on the key chain, anyone could have taken the keys and had a duplicated key made. The keys should have been given to me by your department. There was unexplained damage to the rear of the SUV. Since this was reported as a head-on collision, how did the rear bumper sustain severe damage whereby the bumper was bent up into a V-shape with no tag attached? Where is the tag? Also, I have not received his wallet, cell phone, or clothing. I know these items were used as evidence, but I think that the items should have been returned to me.

3. FBI Involvement

I received a letter from Bennie Thompson as well as a carbon copy of a letter addressed to Special Agent Daniel McMullen requesting assistance in the investigation. To date, no one has clarified this. I have not been introduced to the agent/agents who is/are helping with the investigation. Neither have I been told whether the FBI will be monitoring your investigation or conducting its own investigation.

4. The Reason(s) for the Ongoing Investigation

It has been reported in the press/media that you have a suspect in custody, Lawrence Reed. It has also been reported that family members and/or friends have stated that Mr. Reed informed them that he killed Marco in a "gay rape panic". In this case, suspect and motive have been determined, so why is there still an ongoing investigation? Have other facts/factors been discovered that warrant further investigation? Also, it has been reported that Mr. Reed confessed to killing Marco by strangling him with his wallet chain. In that case, strangulation was the cause of death, so why is it taking so long for me to receive the death certificate? I know that this is a matter for the State Medical Examiner, but I would like to know if another cause of death has been or is being taken into consideration.

Please know that I am not in any way questioning your expertise. I am merely trying to find answers to questions that I have about the murder investigation of my only child.

I look forward to a timely response from you regarding these unanswered questions. Your assistance to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,


Mrs. Patricia Unger

cc: U. S. Congressman Bennie Thompson

Special Agent Daniel McMullen

U.S. Congressman John Lewis

The Honorable Eric Holder

Carter D. Womack, Past President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity